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OPTICAL FIBER CABLE CONNECTING END PART

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[There are no amendments to this patent.]

Claim

A type of optical fiber cable connecting end part characterized by the following facts: for a cable that has a collected optical fiber body in which plural coated optical fibers free of individual jackets are collected and a jacket is formed to collectively wrap all of said coated optical fibers, a heat-shrinkable tube is put on each of the coated optical fibers exposed after

removal of said jacket at the end part of the cable to be connected, and a heat-shrinkable tube is applied to cover the portion spanning the region between the group of said coated optical fibers with said heat-shrinkable tubes covering them and said jacket.

Detailed explanation of the invention

Technical field

The present invention pertains to a type of connecting end part of cable having plural coated optical fibers.

Prior art

One example of an optical fiber cable is a type of optical/electrical composite cable, which has plural insulated metallic cores and one or several coated optical fibers, with a housing applied over their outer periphery. Each said coated optical fiber has a primary coating, a buffer layer and a jacket formed sequentially on the outer periphery of an optical fiber. Said coated optical fibers are arranged in the twisting spacer of the metallic cores such that little lateral pressure or other external force is applied.

However, the twisting spacer is small, and it is difficult to arrange the coated optical fibers there. As a way to address this problem, the coated optical fibers are arranged free of individual jackets (in this invention, this state wherein only a thin plastic film and a buffer layer are applied to each optical fiber is called "coated optical fibers") and collected together by twisting or the like in an appropriate number. On the collected group of coated optical fibers, a jacket made of polyamide or polyethylene hexafluoride or the like is applied overall to form a collected optical fiber body. It is twisted together with the metallic cores to form a cable core, which has a housing applied over it to form the final cable.

When connection between optical fibers or branch connection to other equipment is to be performed, an extra length of optical fiber, applied onsite, is used to avoid abnormal factors such as a tension, and, for example, a splice piece is used to facilitate connection. That is, the jacket end portions of two optical fibers are accommodated in the center of a groove longitudinally formed in a rod-shaped body serving as said piece, and they are integrated with an adhesive and with a lid member applied to cover the groove.

However, with the structure prepared by twisting and collecting plural coated optical fibers without individual jackets and then wrapping the collection with a jacket, the connecting portion is not sufficiently protected because the coated optical fibers to be connected are not each wrapped with a jacket. Consequently, when considerable tension is applied to this portion, not only will the optical fibers be broken at the connecting site, they will also be susceptible to scratches during the connecting operation, and the mechanical strength of this portion will decrease.

Purpose of the invention

The purpose of the present invention is to solve the aforementioned problems of the prior art by providing a type of optical fiber cable connecting end part characterized by the fact that for a cable that has a collected optical fiber body in which plural coated optical fibers free of individual jackets are collected and having a jacket formed to collectively wrap all of said coated optical fibers, a heat-shrinkable tube is put on each of the coated optical fibers exposed after removal of said jacket at the end part of the cable to be connected, and a heat-shrinkable tube is applied to cover the portion spanning the region between the group of said coated optical fibers with said heat-shrinkable tubes covering them and said jacket.

Application examples

In the following, the present invention will be explained in more detail with reference to an application example illustrated by figures. Figure 1 is a side view illustrating the application example of the present invention. Figure 2 is cross section taken across A-A' of Figure 1, Figure 3 is a cross section taken across B-B' of Figure 1, and Figure 4 is a cross section taken across C-C' of Figure 1.

In Figure 1, (1a), (1b) represent cables. Each of cables (1a), (1b) has multiple twisted metallic cores (2a), (2b) each prepared by coating a metal conductor with an insulator (only one is shown in the figure to simplify the figure). Collected bodies (3a), (3b), each prepared by applying a jacket on a collection of coated optical fibers, are arranged in the spaces of the twisted metallic cores. For cables (1a), (1b), outer jackets (11a), (11b) are stripped off at their end portions, respectively, and metallic cores (2a), and (2b) are connected with each other at connecting part (20).

As shown in Figure 2, collected optical fiber bodies (3a), (3b) (only (3a) is shown in Figures 2-4, and (3b) has the same structure) are prepared as follows: four coated optical fibers (33a), each of which is prepared by forming a thin plastic layer on optical fiber (31a) and then forming buffer layer (32a), are twisted and collected. Then, silicone resin or the like is applied to fill the twist spaces and to cover the outer periphery of coated optical fibers (33a), forming buffer layer (34a). Then a fluorine-containing resin or the like is coated on the outer periphery to form jacket (35a).

(30) represents the end forming portion of collected optical fiber body (3a), and optical fibers (31a) are branched and connected via connector (40) to the optical fibers (not shown in the figure) of another collected optical fiber body (3b) or the optical fibers of other equipment (not shown in the figure) as the individual optical fibers (31a) are led out.

As indicated by the broken lines in Figure 1, an appropriate length of jacket (35a) at the end of collected optical fiber body (3a) of coated optical fibers (33a) is removed. Each heat-shrinkable tube (50) is applied over each of the exposed portions and then heated with an appropriate heating means to make said heat-shrinkable tubes wrap said exposed portions.

Then, the region spanning from the end portion of jacket (35a) to the group of coated optical fibers (33a), each wrapped in a heat-shrinkable tube (50), is placed inside heat-shrinkable tube (60). The heat-shrinkable tube is then made to shrink by heating it with an appropriate heating means. If needed, a hot-melt type adhesive is coated on the inner surfaces of said heat-shrinkable sleeves (50), (60), or a silicone resin fills them, so that jacket (35a), heat-shrinkable tubes (50), heat-shrinkable tube (60) and coated optical fibers (33a) are bonded together to form a monolithic body with high strength.

Said heat-shrinkable tubes (50), (60) used in the present invention are of the conventional type made of polyvinyl resin, cross-linked polyethylene, fluorine-containing resin, silicone rubber, etc., as long as they can protect optical fibers (31a) from lateral pressure, tension, and other external forces.

Also, collected optical fiber body (3b) on the other side is prepared at the same time as said collected optical fiber body (3a).

Effects

As explained above, for the optical fiber cable connecting end part of the present invention, for a cable that has a collected optical fiber body in which plural coated optical fibers free of individual jackets are collected and a jacket is formed to wrap all of said coated optical fibers, a heat-shrinkable tube is placed on each of the coated optical fibers exposed after removal of said jacket at the end of the cable to be connected, and a heat-shrinkable tube is applied to cover the portion spanning the region between the group of said coated optical fibers with said heat-shrinkable tubes covering them and said jacket. Consequently, the optical fibers are protected from external forces by the respective heat-shrinkable tubes, and at the same time the coated optical fibers are connected to the optical fibers of the other cable, or are branched and connected to the optical fibers of other equipment.

Brief description of the figures

Figure 1 is a side view of an application example of the present invention. Figure 2 is a cross section taken across A-A' of Figure 1. Figure 3 is a cross section taken across B-B' of Figure 1. Figure 4 is a cross section taken across C-C' of Figure 1.

- 1a, 1b Cable
- 2a, 2b Metallic core
- 3a, 3b Collected optical fiber body
- 30 Optical fiber end forming part
- 33a Coated optical fiber
- 50, 60 Heat-shrinkable tube
- 70 Adhesive

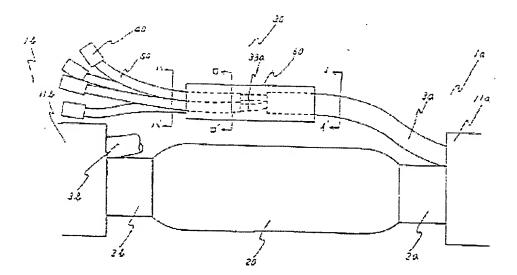


Figure 1

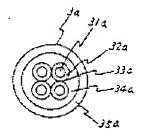


Figure 2

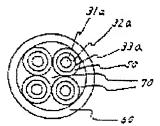


Figure 3

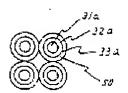


Figure 4

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(54) CONNECTION END PART OF CABLE WITH

OPTICAL FIBER

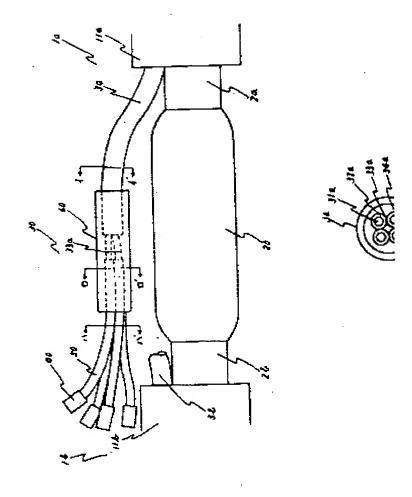
(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To protect an optical fiber from external force, and branching it strongly and to perform branching, connection, etc., to the optical fiber of another equipment by covering an end part of a heatshrinkable tube which covers the buffer layer of the optical fiber and the jacket of a bundle with a heatshrinkable tube.

CONSTITUTION: An optical fiber bundle 3a and a metallic core 2a are branched into from a clad 11a. Bundles 3a and 3b have plural optical jackets 31a. An optical fiber element wire 33a has the jacket 35a removed at an end part of the bundle 3a toproper length, and the exposed part is run into a heat-shrinkable tube 50 and heated by a proper heating means and sheathed. Then, a heat-shrinkable tube 60 is arranged straddling and

covering the end part of the jacket 35a and the optical fiber element wire 33a covered with the hat-shrinkable jacket tube 50, and heated by a heating means to decrease in diameter.

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❷発明の名称 光ファイバを有するケーブルの接続端部

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明 細 書

1. 発明の名称

73発

光ファイバを有するケーブルの接続端部

それぞれジャケットを有さない光ファイバ楽 鉄を複数本集合した上に一括してジャケットを 設けた光ファイバ集合体を有するケーブルの接 続すべき端部の前記ジャケットを取除いて露出 した光ファイバ素線上に、それぞれ熱収縮チューブを被せ、かつ酸熱収縮チューブを被せた光 ファイバ素線の群と前記ジャケットとに跨つて 熱収縮チューブを被せてなることを特徴とする 光ファイバを有するケーブルの接続端部。

5. 発明の詳細な説明

(技術分野)

本発明は複数心の光ファイバを有するケープ ルの接続用端部に関する。

〔從来技術〕

光ファイバを有するケーブルの一例として、 絶録された適宜数のメタリック心線と共に、光 ファイバ心線を1心宛あるいは適宜数心を避めた状態で配置され、そして、これらの外周に外被が設けられた、例えば光/電力復合ケーフルがある。一方光ファイバ心線には、光ファイバの外周に通常順次、一次被優、優価層及びやヤットが設けられており、このように構合された、例正等の外力が加わり難いように配置される。

ルコアを構成しこれに外被を施してケーブルと されることがある。

体上に絶縁体が被援された複数心のメタリック心線2 a、2 b が整合せされており(図では簡略のため一心のみ示している。)、その整合せ間関部分に光ファイバ素線群にジャケットを施してなる集合体 5 a、 3 b が配置されている。ケーブル 1 a、 1 b はそれぞれその端部の外被11 a、 1 1 b が取除かれ、メタリック心線2 a と 2 b とは接続部 2 0 において接続されている。

的強度が弱くなる等の成れがある。

(発明の目的)・

本発明の光ファイバケーブルの接続増部は上述のような問題を解消しうるものであつい来線をれていたかかからを有さない光ファイトを設けなれて、集合体を有するケーブルの接続けて、発音がある。と前に、まれて、整理を対して、ない、表線の群と前にシャケットとに跨つて数には、ない、表線の群と前にシャケットとに跨ってある。

〔実施例〕

以下、図面を参照して本発明の一実施例を詳細に説明する。第1図は本発明の一実施例の関面図、第2図は第1図のイーイ/線矢視図、第3図は第1図のローロ/線矢視図、第4図は第1図のハーハ/線矢視図である。

第 1 図において、 1 a、 1 b はそれぞれケーブルであつて、各ケーブル 1 a、 1 b は金属導

3 0 は光ファイバ集合体 3 a の成端部であつて、コネクタ4 0 を介して各光ファイバ 3 1 a が他方の光ファイバ集合体 3 b の図示しない光ファイバや図示しない他の機器の光ファイバに分岐結線すべく各光ファイバ 3 1 a が取出される。

光ファイバ 素線 3 3 a は光ファイバ 集合 体 3 a の 端部の ジャケット 3 5 a が 第 1 図におい て 点線で示す ように適宜 長、 取除かれ、 その 鷲 出部分にそれぞれ加熱 収縮チューフ 5 0 が 挿通 されたのち、 適宜の加熱手段により加熱され、 被包されている。

. り、ジャケット 3 5 a 、 各加熱収縮チューブ 5 0 、加熱収縮チューブ 6 0 及び各光ファイバ 索線 3 3 a が 一体的に強固に接着されている。

本発明において用いる各加熱収縮チューブ 50及び60は、ビニル、架橋ポリエチレン、 弗素系樹脂、シリコンゴム等の公知のものであ り、光ファイバ31 a を側圧や張力等の外力か ら保護するものであれば用いることができる。

また、他方の光ファイバ集合体 3 b も前述の 光ファイバ集合体 3 a と同時に加工される。

〔効果〕

上述のように、本発明の光ファイバケーブルの接続端部は、該ケーブル内の個々にジャケットが設けられていない光ファイバを、他の光ファイバを接続したり、また、他の機器の光ファイバに分岐結線する場合に好適なものであつて、光ファイバ上に設けられた緩衝層上に加熱収縮チューブを被せ、この加熱収縮チューブの論部と、光ファイバ集合体のジャケットとに跨つて加熱収縮チューブを被せる構成のものである。

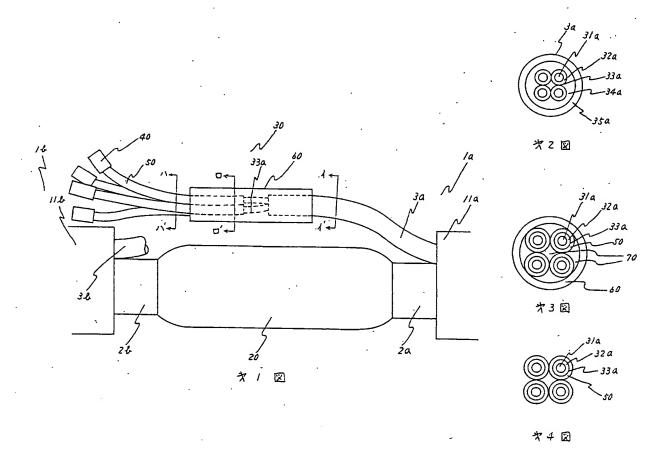
而して、それぞれの光ファイバは、加熱収縮チューブによつて、外力から保護されると共に、 堅固に分岐され、他の光ファイバとの接続あるいは他の根器の光ファイバへの分岐、結碘ができる。

4. 図面の簡単な説明

第1 図は本発明の一実施例の側面図、第2 図は第1 図のイーイ線矢視図、第3 図は第1 図のローロ線矢視図、第4 図は第1 図のハーバ線矢視図である。

図において、1 a、1 b はケーブル、2 a、2 b はメタリック心験、3 a 5 b は光ファイバ集合体、3 0 は光ファイバ成端部、3 3 a は光ファイバ素線、5 0 及び 6 0 はそれぞれ加熱収・縮チューブ、7 0 は接着剤である。

特 許 登 録 出 類 人 大 日 日 本 電 級 株 式 会 社 代表者代表取締役 青 山 幸 雄



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